

July 9, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David C. Potter
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan
Amendment 10 Update

This memo is to inform you of the new regulations to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery published as Amendment 10 on June 23, 2004. The complete regulations can be found on the Northeast Regional Office Amendment 10 homepage at:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/amend10/>

As observers on commercial scallop boats fishing in both the open and limited access areas (also referred to as closed areas), you should be aware of the changes to the dredge gear.

Twine Top Minimum Mesh Size

The new requirement will increase the mesh size and will apply to vessels using scallop gear in the open areas effective July 23, 2004. This change will be reflected in your **Twine Top Mesh Size** measurements on the **Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Log**.

Minimum Ring Size

The minimum ring size of the metal rings that make up the chain bag on a scallop dredge will be increased in diameter. This new regulation will become effective on July 23, 2004 for vessels fishing in limited access areas and additionally for vessels fishing in open areas on December 23, 2004. This change will be reflected in your **Inside Ring Size** and **Outside Ring Size** measurements on the **Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Log**.

Due to the regulations mentioned above, we expect to see an increase in **Trip Costs (Supplies)** on the **Vessel and Trip Information Log** as well as an increase in **Replacement /Add Costs (Fish Gear)** on the **Vessel and Trip Information Log - Six Month Questions**. Be sure to comment accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Kupcha at (508) 495-2031.

The regulation information was summarized from the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 10 published on June 23, 2004, and should not be used as a substitute for the actual regulations.